

Submitted: November 19, 2015
Approved: November 19, 2015

**MINUTES OF THE ROCKVILLE
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING NO. 09-2015
Thursday, September 17, 2015**

The City of Rockville Historic District Commission convened
in the Mayor and Council Chambers on
September 17, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Rob Achtmeyer
Craig Moloney
Anita Neal-Powell
Jessica Reynolds

Present: Jim Wasilak, Chief of Planning
Sheila Bashiri, Preservation Planner

I. AGENDA REVIEW WORKSESSION (Black Eyed Susan Conference Room).

There were no decisions made during the worksession.

I. COMMITTEE / ORGANIZATION REPORTS

- A. Peerless Rockville - Peerless Rockville Staff
- B. Lincoln Park Historical Foundation - Anita Neal Powell
- C. Public Comments/Open Forum
- D. HDC and Staff Comments

II. CONSENT AGENDA *(Consent Agenda items may be approved per the Staff Report without discussion. However, any person may request that the Chair remove an item from the Consent Agenda for discussion and public comments before the vote).*

- A. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** August 20, 2015
- B. **HDC2016-0753**, Colossal Contractors, 101 Fleet Street, Certificate of Approval to replace existing accessible ramp with new ramp.
- C. **HDC2016-00754**, Colossal Contractors, 103 Fleet Street, Certificate of Approval to install new accessible ramp.
- D. **HDC2016-00757**, Colossal Contractors, 105 Fleet Street, Certificate of Approval to install new accessible ramp.

- E. HDC2016-00761**, Erin Mahony, 405 W. Montgomery Avenue, Certificate of Approval to replace the metal roof and replace storm windows.
- F. HDC2016-00762**, Mark Navin, 710 W. Montgomery Avenue, Certificate of Approval for restoring shed, replacing fence, and tree removal.
- G. TAX CREDIT HDC2015-00737**, Mark Navin, 710 W. Montgomery Avenue, Historic Tax Credit Application.

Commissioner Moloney moved, seconded by Commissioner Reynolds to approve the Consent Agenda including the staff comments. The motion passed 4-0.

III. CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

HDC2016-00756, Montgomery County, Greg Ossont, Deputy Director of the Department of General Services, to remove the Confederate soldier monument from the Red Brick Courthouse property at 29 Courthouse Square.

Ms. Bashiri presented her staff report and explained how she made her determination using the Secretary of Interior's Standards. She recited Standards 2, 4, and 10, and recommended approval.

The applicant, Greg Ossont, Deputy Director for the Department of General Services for Montgomery County, thanked staff for delivering a comprehensive staff report and stated he has nothing to add. He said that he concurs with the recommendation of approval but reiterated the chair's opening remark that this is simply an application to remove the statute from the grounds of the Red Brick Courthouse.

The meeting was opened for public testimony, and the following members of the public spoke:

Councilmember Tom Moore spoke as an individual Councilmember and not representing the City Council in support of the removal of the Confederate statute.

Patricia Woodward, a long-time citizen of Rockville asked that the statute not be removed. She stated she is a descendant of Civil War veterans.

Susan Cook Soderberg, historian and author spoke against removing the statue. She provided information on the history of three types of Civil War monuments along with three points to support her view.

Matt Logan, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Historical Society, stated he would like the statue to remain in place. Removal would diminish the courthouse district's historic integrity.

Judy Christensen, former Preservation Planner for the City and board member of Montgomery Preservation, Inc., does not agree with the staff report and does not support the removal of the statute.

Anthony Cohen, President of the Menare Foundation asked to preserve the statute and not remove it.

Rich McLaughlin, citizen of Montgomery County, feels that the statute should remain in place and if there is a grass-roots movement to move it he would support it. He does not believe it should be moved for political reasons.

Nancy Pickard, on behalf of Peerless Rockville, said moving the statute would deny the City the opportunity to acknowledge its contested past. Peerless does not support staff's recommendation for the removal of the statute.

Sara Rogers, Executive Director of Heritage Montgomery, says the statute reflects Rockville's place in the Civil War. She says it is public art intended to inspire reflection.

Hannelore Quigley spoke in favor of keeping the statute in place and asked the HDC to delay its decision until there is a proposal in place for relocation. She stated the statute is the starting point for walking tours. She says the county will pay to have the statute moved.

Eileen McGuckian, a Rockville historian, spoke about the significance of the Red Brick Courthouse and the statute's significance to the history of Montgomery County and the City of Rockville. She said that the statute should remain in place and not be moved.

Eldridge James of the Montgomery County NAACP stated that the statute has to go and that it does not belong on the "people's grounds" but to a place where it can be cherished.

Dave Glich with the Society of Civil War Historians says the statute should remain in place or moved to the Beall Dawson House.

Hugh Clayton, a Civil War reenactor asked to leave the statute in place and provide additional signage.

Maize Rocke of 307 Woodland Road in Rockville, asked that the statute remain in place.

Steven Bockmiller, a descendent of a Confederate soldier, opposed the removal of the statute.

Emily Correll, descendant of a Confederate soldier, is in support of moving the statute from the public courthouse grounds.

Jay Barringer, Division Commander of the Maryland Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and descendant of a Confederate soldier does not support the removal of the statute. It represents the unity after the Civil War. He said that keeping it in place preserves history.

Jerry VanWinter of 24 Courthouse Square would like the statute to stay.

Christina Ginsberg of 1204 Simmons Drive, Rockville, stated she would like the statute to be removed because it is no longer appropriate on public property.

Marian Hull stated the statute should not be removed.

This ends the public testimony. The meeting recessed at 9:25 and reconvened at 9:35

The HDC asked several questions of the applicant and he provided a list of the five proposed sites for the statute:

1. The Beall-Dawson Historical Park in Rockville
2. Callithia Farm Special Park in Potomac
3. Darnestown Square Heritage Park in Darnestown
4. Jessup Blair Local Park in Silver Spring
5. Edgewood Farm in Gaithersburg

Chair Achtmeyer moved to extend the meeting beyond their 10:00 pm time limit, and the HDC agreed.

Commissioner Reynolds moved, seconded by Commissioner Neal-Powell, to approve HDC2016-00756, finding that the proposal to remove the confederate soldier monument from the property meets the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation #2, #4 and #10 and that the proposed work will not affect the historic integrity of the building that is designated. However, by this motion the HDC urges very strongly that the County Council consider Rockville to be the final destination for the statute, and that is be in a location that is publicly accessible to continue the historical interpretation that is currently going on through various organizations. The motion passed 4-0.

IV. DISCUSSION

- A. Update on Draft Historic Preservation Text Amendment – Ms. Bashiri updated the HDC on the text amendment stating that it will be forwarded to HDC once staff and legal have an opportunity to review it.
- B. Update on Map Amendment for 17 Martins Lane – Ms. Bashiri informed the HDC that this item is going before the Mayor and Council on September 21st for a public hearing. She asked for HDCs support.
- C. Ms. Bashiri also informed the HDC that a new member was recently appointed by the Mayor and Council at their previous meeting.

V. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

R. James Wasilak, AICP
Chief of Zoning